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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session

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Rapporteur: Mr. Jerry **Kramer** (Canada)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

Item 4 (c)

Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fortieth session on the in-depth evaluation of the advancement of women programme

1. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 9 June, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fortieth session on the in-depth evaluation of the advancement of women programme (E/AC.51/2003/5).

2. The representative of OIOS introduced the report. Representatives of the Secretary-General responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the quality of the concise report and its informational thrust. The Committee appreciated the number of results already in evidence due to the joint efforts of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women and the Division for the

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Advancement of Women to implement the recommendations made by the Commission three years ago.

4. The reduction of the backlog (recommendation 1 (a)) in the consideration of State parties' reports by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (from 48 to 17) was applauded. It was observed that the reduction was attributed to ad hoc exceptional measures, and questions were raised on whether consideration had been given to developing a permanent system to deal with this issue. A question was raised about the expected timing of the consideration of the remaining 17 reports.

5. The measures to reduce the outstanding reporting obligations (recommendation 1 (b)) by States parties to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women were commended. The question of how many States had outstanding reporting obligations was raised, and the hope that all States would participate was expressed.

6. The efforts to ensure that non-governmental organizations were informed (recommendation 1 (c)) of a State party's presentation of its report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women were appreciated. At the same time, it was noted that some non-governmental organizations were still unaware of the procedures for submitting reports to the Committee. Further efforts in that respect were required.

7. Support was expressed for the implementation of recommendation 2 since it was preferable for users to access information on the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women directly from the Internet rather than relying on documentation published with a 10-year delay.

8. The Committee stressed its interest in the quick implementation of recommendation 3 on achieving gender balance in the United Nations Secretariat, and requested that the effectiveness of the new recruitment, promotion and placement system be evaluated as soon as it was deemed feasible.

9. Regarding mention of a conference to be held in 2005 to review progress achieved 10 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Committee observed that current proposals envisaged holding the 10-year review of the Conference in the context of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

10. The Committee commended the efforts of the Division for the Advancement of Women and other United Nations programmes and entities to discuss strategies and share work plans (recommendation 5).

11. The Committee commended and encouraged the determination of the Division to facilitate the increased participation of NGOs in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

12. The Committee commended the efforts of the Special Adviser for the Advancement of Women and Gender Issues to develop a strategy for an ombudsman for gender issues.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended approval of the conclusions of the triennial review.**

14. **The Committee recommended that the triennial review and its conclusions thereon be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women for review and action, as appropriate.**